

VLR-12/16/80 NRHP-7/8/82

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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received
date entered

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Massie House (preferred)

and/or common Oak Grove

2. Location

street & number Route 220, S of Valley View, W of Warm Springs N/A not for publication

city, town Falling Spring X vicinity of congressional district Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)

state Virginia code 51 county Alleghany code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Hansford R. Massie, Jr.

street & number Route 2, Box 262

city, town Hot Springs N/A vicinity of state Virginia 24445

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Alleghany County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Covington state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979, 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Massie House, also known as Oak Grove, is located just off U. S. Route 220 in northern Allegheny County. The double-pile, two-story, wood-frame house was built in two phases in 1825-26, and sits on a brick foundation laid in Flemish bond. The walls are sheathed with beaded weatherboards. The west elevation originally had paired exterior end chimneys also executed in Flemish bond. The north chimney has collapsed. Two interior end chimneys break the roof line on the east elevation.

The slightly irregular front (south) elevation contains the main entrance which consists of the original paneled double-doors ornamented with small Chinese and Gothic motifs, flanked by sidelights and topped by a segmental fanlight. The fanlight contains the initials "HM" for the builder, Henry Massie. The entrance is framed by a symmetrically molded architrave. The first floor of the south front is sheltered by a flat-roofed, early 20th-century porch. The rear (north) entrance retains its original paneled door set within a deeply molded architrave. The original porch and steps have been removed and have not been replaced. Entrances are located also on both the east and west elevations. Their architraves are similar to those on the rear elevation. The west elevation retains its original paneled door while the door on the east elevation contains a multi-light top set over the original lower panels. The east elevation has a crude shed-roofed porch, added in this century. The porch on the west elevation has been removed; a second-story door indicates that the original porch was two stories. Fenestration of the front and rear elevations consists of 9/9 hung sash on the first story and 6/9 hung sash on the second story. The windows are flanked by louvred shutters. The west elevation is similarly treated. The east elevation has atypical fenestration that consists of small square case-ment windows on both the first and second stories. A lunette graces the pedimented gables on the side elevations, and the west lunette is carved with the date 1826. A dentiled cornice runs along the eaves course and in the pediments. The roof is covered by standing-seam sheet metal.

The plan of the Massie House is unusual. The principal door leads into a small trapezoidal entrance from which access is provided into the first-floor parlors. A wide storage room is positioned between the small entry hall and stair, located in the rear. This rear stair hall with its adjacent lateral service hall is also an unusual feature. The second floor has a central passage that narrows as it leads off the stair hall. The main open-well, open-string stair has a turned newel, delicate scroll-sawn brackets, an oval handrail, and a paneled spandrel. The door frames in the hall have symmetrical architrave trim with square corner blocks. The door frames are repeated in the main rooms of the house.

The first-floor mantels are Federal types with reeded pilasters and broken cornice shelves. The principal first-floor rooms also contain paneled wainscoting. The northeast study has built-in cupboards and drawers. The second-floor rooms have less elaborate mantels than those on the first floor. The second-floor chambers on the east side have built-in closets that originally were lighted by the small windows previously noted. The walls throughout the house are plastered, and the floors are pine.

No original outbuildings survive. A 20th-century complex of unused farm buildings is located to the rear (east) of the house. The main house has been unoccupied for several years without sufficient maintenance and is deteriorating. The current owner lives in a small 20th-century cottage to the southwest of the main house. The front (south) lawn is overgrown but preserves a grove of large oak trees planted in the 19th century. A panoramic view of the surrounding mountains can be obtained from the house.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates 1825-26 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dramatically sited in Falling Spring Valley, with a backdrop of wooded mountains, the Massie House is Alleghany County's chief example of the Federal style and is probably the area's oldest formal dwelling. The imposing, two-story house with its pedimented gables was completed in 1826 for Henry Massie, a wealthy planter who served among Alleghany's first magistrates. Its outstanding features include a decorative fanlight entrance incorporating the initials of the builder in the tracery, a finely executed stair, and handsome woodwork consisting of cupboards, mantels, and wainscoting. A departure from the Commonwealth's more standard Federal design is the Massie House plan which places the stair in a separate room at the rear of the house. Another oddity is the small, trapezoidal entry, a treatment observed in no other Virginia house of the period. A series of tiny, square, closet windows also give the house distinction.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Henry Massie (1784-ca. 1841) was the son of Thomas Massie who was born in New Kent County in 1747. The elder Massie married Sarah Cocke of Turkey Island ca. 1780 and moved to Frederick County. He received a grant of 3,329 acres in Botetourt County in Falling Spring Valley in 1782 and also received a bounty warrant of 5,333½ acres in Kentucky for Revolutionary War services. He lost no time in expanding his holdings in Virginia. In 1795 he purchased more than 3,000 acres on the Upper Tye River in Amherst County (now Nelson County), and settled at Level Green in 1803. He died in 1834.

In 1815-16 Thomas Massie sold a 3,000-acre tract in Bath County for \$10,000 to his son, Henry Massie. The younger Massie, born in 1784, married Sarah Preston Lewis in 1810 and first appears in the Bath County Tax Records as a property owner in 1811. By 1815, he is listed as the owner of the 3,000-acre tract acquired from his father. The Land Tax Book of 1820 includes a building value of \$562.50 for the property suggesting that Massie may have settled on his father's land at the time of his marriage. By 1819 he paid the highest personal property tax in his district. In 1822, when Alleghany County was formed from Bath County, Massie served as acting magistrate until he resigned in 1826. The Land Tax Book of 1826 records an increase of \$300 in the building value of the Massie property. The tax records of 1827 note an increase in total building value to \$1,562.50, a jump of \$700. This would account for the completion of the present house.

The erection of the house over the two-year period may account for the irregularity of the plan and slight asymmetry of the facade. The rather odd placement of a closet between the entrance hall and the main stair suggests that the small room was an afterthought.

Massie's first wife was killed in a carriage accident on November 23, 1825, and in May 1826 he married Elizabeth Daggs, daughter of Hezekiah Daggs. Henry Massie died in 1841, and his widow remained in the house until her death in 1876 when it became the property of her son, Hezekiah Massie. The property is presently owned by H. R. Massie, Jr., a direct descendant of its builder, Henry Massie. The house is unoccupied and in deteriorated condition. The family, however, hopes to restore it to serve again as the family seat.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Alleghany County Deed Book, 3.
 Land Tax Books(1822-1850).
 Personal Property Tax Books (1822-1834).
 Will Book 2.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 30 acres

Quadrangle name Falling Spring, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 7	5 9 5 0 4 0	4 1 9 2 8 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 7	5 9 4 7 9 0	4 1 9 2 3 4 0
E	1 7	5 9 4 8 1 0	4 1 9 2 7 8 0
G			

B	1 7	5 9 5 1 6 0	4 1 9 2 6 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1 7	5 9 4 6 6 0	4 1 9 2 6 0 0
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on E side of U.S. Route 220, about 2 mi. SW of the intersection of said route and State Route 606; thence extending 700' SSE to contour line; thence extending about 1000' SW following said contour line; thence continuing approximately 600' SSW across private drive; thence extending 800' NNW along S side of said drive to E side of U.S. Route 220; thence following said side of said route 1600' NE to point of origin. (see Continuation sheet #1 for boundary justification.)

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date December 1980

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell 6/3/82

H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date DEC 16 1980

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Massie House, Alleghany County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7,9

Page 1

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7. DESCRIPTION

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property consists of approximately 30 acres. It includes the entrance from the highway, the main house, farm complex, the present owner's cottage, and the front lawn of oaks from which the popular name "Oak Grove" was derived. A scenic view of the house and its grove of oaks can be obtained from U.S. Route 220 and the boundaries have been drawn to incorporate it.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bath County Deed Book 3.

Land Tax Books (1792-1822).

Personal Property Tax Books (1810-1819).

Morton, Oren F. A Centennial History of Alleghany County, Va. Dayton, VA: J.K. Ruebush Company, 1923.

